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**May 31, 2016**

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## **Port Chester Trustees Voice Need for Community Benefits Agreement Before Approving Starwood's United Hospital Site Development**

**Port Chester, NY** – Three Port Chester Village Trustees, Luis Marino, Greg Adams, and Dan Brakewood, voiced support today for a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) as part of the redevelopment of the United Hospital Site.

Luis Marino: "I think a community benefits agreement between Starwood and the Sustainable Port Chester Alliance needs to be pursued. We can have a really good development and everyone can win when the community gets behind it."

Greg Adams: "I have said from the beginning that I support the negotiation of a Community Benefits Agreement which includes workforce housing, good jobs, local hire, funding for our schools and municipal services, including professional firefighters, and policemen, while protecting our environment. I believe by working together, Starwood, the Sustainable Port Chester Alliance, and the Village of Port Chester can be a model for responsible development.

Dan Brakewood: "The more I learn about the role of Community Benefits Agreements in guiding smart development, the more I believe it is appropriate for our Village to look into how to use this kind of tool to ensure the successful redevelopment of the United Hospital site. The Sustainable Port Chester Alliance has come up with some good ways to improve this project for both current and future residents of Port Chester."

Trustee support for Sustainable Port Chester Alliance's call for a CBA came the day before the June 1 public hearing on Starwood's preliminary Final Environmental Impact Statement for its proposed 1 million square-foot mixed-use private development at the campus of the former United Hospital at 406 Boston Post Road. It is the second public hearing in as many weeks.

The \$300 million proposal includes: 730 residential units, 90,000 square feet of retail space, 217,000 square feet of office space, and a 138 room hotel. In order to build, the developer needs the approval of Village Trustees to rezone the site to allow for a bigger development than is currently permitted.

The Sustainable Port Chester Alliance (SPCA) is advocating for Starwood to sign a Community Benefits Agreement that includes money for schools, workforce housing, and good jobs, before gaining such approval.

SPCA members are concerned that Starwood will sell the property should Trustees approve a zoning change that would dramatically increase its value. Starwood chief Barry Sternlicht said he was going to sell the property at last month's shareholder meeting.

Meanwhile, the SPCA continues to advocate for the redevelopment of the property, provided it comes with a legally enforceable CBA.

"CBA 's hold developers accountable and ensure that the public actually benefit from its investment in large real estate projects such as Starwood's development of United Hospital," SPCA spokesperson Joan Grangenois-Thomas said. "That's what we need to happen here. If Starwood wants Port Chester to give it millions of dollars in tax breaks and a lucrative rezoning, then the company needs to come to the table and negotiate a Community Benefits Agreement.... Starwood needs to get on the right side of history and make Port Chester a model in terms of a CBA. Hold us up as your poster child of the way development should happen. If we've learned anything from this election cycle it's that people are sick and tired of business as usual. We want a say in what happens where we live and the communities in which we live."

*The Sustainable Port Chester Alliance is a growing coalition of faith, housing and labor groups advocating for responsible development at the United Hospital site, including: Port Chester/Rye Branch of NAACP; Council of Community Services of Port Chester; Rye Brook and Rye Town; Port Chester Teachers Association; Don Bosco Workers, Inc.; All Souls Parish; Human Development Services of Westchester; Metallic Lathers & Reinforcing Iron Workers Local 46; Communication Workers of America Local 1103; Building and Construction Trades Council of Westchester and Putnam Counties; Perla Zuniga, Community Organizer; Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 21; Stone Derrickmen & Riggers Iron Workers Local 197; Supporters; Open Door Family Medical Centers.*

[www.portchesteralliance.org](http://www.portchesteralliance.org)

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